

## Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 AF-10 ARA-06

EA-07 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01 SP-02 USIA-06

AGRE-00 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07 LAB-04

NSAE-00 OIC-02 EPG-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /128 W

-----092111Z 100348 /73

R 091708Z MAY 77

FM USMISSION GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7189

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 3 GENEVA 3535

FOR US OECD: PLEASE PASS TO GELBARD OF CIEC DEL

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UNCTAD EGEN

SUBJECT: UNCTAD: CONCLUSION OF FIRST SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECDC)

REF: GENEVA 3415 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: FIRST SESSION OF UNCTAD COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC  
COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECDC) ENDED  
AT 1:00 PM MONDAY, MAY 9, WITH ADOPTION OF A  
CONSENSUS RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING A WORK PROGRAM FOR UNCTAD  
SECRETARIAT. (SEE SEPTTEL FOR TEXT OF RESOLUTION). THE RESOLUTION  
AS THE PRODUCT OF ARDUOUS NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE GROUP OF 77 LASTING  
ALL DAY FRIDAY, MAY 6, AND CONCLUDING SATURDAY AT 4:00 A.M. THE  
MOST DIFFICULT ISSUE TO RESOLVE WAS UNCTAD'S ROLE VIS-A-VIS  
THE IMF IN CARRYING OUT A STUDY ON THE STRENGTHENING AND  
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LINKING OUP OF CLEARING AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS AMONG  
LDCS. OTHER CONTENTIOUS ISSUES INCLUDED THE STATUS OF  
THE REPORT OF THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE ON ECDC, UNCTAD'S  
ROLE IN COORDINATING ECDC ACTIVITIES IN THE UN SYSTEM, AND  
GROUP B'S EFFORTS TO COMMIT G-77 TO THE PRINCIPLES THAT  
ALL ECDC ACTIVITIES BE CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL  
OBLIGATIONS AND THAT UNCTAD ACTIVITIES BE NON-EXCLUSIVE

(I.E., OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS ON AN EQUAL BASIS). END  
SUMMARY.

2. AS REPORTED IN REFTTEL, GROUP B TOOK THE INITIATIVE AT THIS MEETING BY TABLING ITS OWN DRAFT RESOLUTION ON WEDNESDAY, RATHER THAN WAITING TO SEE WHAT THE G-77 WOULD PROPOSE. THE G-77, WHICH APPEARED DISORGANIZED, UNPREPARED, AND BADLY-LED AT THIS MEETING, FINALLY TABLED ITS OWN DRAFT RESOLUTION THURSDAY EVENING. THE G-77 DRAFT INCORPORATED A FEW OF GROUP B'S POINTS, BUT WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO GROUP B FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS: (1) IT REQUESTED THE SYG OF UNCTAD TO INITIATE CERTAIN STUDIES AND ECDC ACTIVITIES "AS ADOPTED BY THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE", WHICH WOULD IMPLY COMMITTEE ENDORSEMENT OF THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE, RATHER THAN CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN IDEAS EXPRESSED AT THAT CONFERENCE. (2) IT DID NOT DIFFERENTIATE AMONG STUDIES WHICH WOULD REPRESENT NEW UNCTAD WORK PROJECTS (SUCH AS A STUDY ON A GLOBAL SYSTEM OF TRADE PREFERENCES AMONG LDCS), WORK WHICH IS ALREADY UNDERWAY IN OTHER UNCTAD COMMITTEES (SUCH AS REGIONAL AND SUB-REGIONAL INSURANCE AND RE-INSURANCE SCHEMES), AND WORK IN WHICH OTHER FORUMS HAVE PRIMARY RESPONSIBILITY (SUCH AS THE STRENGTHENING AND EXPANSION OF CLEARING AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS, WHICH IS BEING CARRIED ON IN THE IMF). (3) IT WOULD HAVE MADE THE SYG OF UNCTAD, RATHER THAN ECOSOC, THE FOCAL POINT FOR COORDINATING ECDC ACTIVITIES IN THE UN SYSTEM. (4) IT DID NOT INCLUDE THE FOURTH OR THE EIGHTH RECURRING PARAGRAPHS OF THE GROUP B DRAFT, WHICH AFFIRMED THAT ALL ECDC ACTIVITIES MUST BE CONSISTENT WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND THAT ALL MEMBERS ARE EQUALLY ENTITLED TO PARTICIPATE IN ALL UNCTAD ACTIVITIES.

3. GROUP B, WHICH REMAINED FIRMLY UNITED THROUGHOUT THE MEETING, FINALLY AGREED ON THE LANGUAGE IN PARAGRAPH 2 OF RESOLUTION RE: UNCTAD STUDIES, AFTER THE G-77 AGREED TO INSERT A SEPARATE PARAGRAPH (PARAGRAPH 6) ON STUDY OF CLEARING AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS, INVITING THE SYG OF UNCTAD TO COLLABORATE WITH THE RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN SUPPORT OF THE INTENSIFICATION OF STUDIES ON THIS SUBJECT. US DELETED JOINED THE REST OF GROUP B IN ACCEPTING PARAGRAPH 6, SINCE IT REFERRED TO UNCTAD'S COLLABORATING IN STUDIES (RATHER THAN ACTIVITIES) AND SINCE GROUP B FELT IT WAS CLEAR THAT THE STUDIES REFERRED TO WOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY THE IMF.

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4. ALTHOUGH THE G-77 AGREED TO MAKE DRATING CHANGES TO ACCOMMODATE GROUP B'S POSITION ON THE ROLE F UNCTAD IN COORDINATING ECDC ACTIVITIES AND THE STATUS OF THE MEXICO CITY CONFERENCE, IT REFUSED TO INCLUDE IN THE RESOLUTION LANGUAGE AFFIRMING THAT ECDC ACTIVITIES BE NON-EXCLUSIONARY AND CONSISTENT WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS (THE G-77 CLAIMED THAT THESE PRINCIPLES WERE FULLY UNDERSTOOD AND THEREFORE THERE WAS NO NEED TO INCLUDE THEM IN THE RESOLUTION.) AS A COMPROMISE, THE PRESIDENT OF THE COMMITTEE AGREED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING LANGUAGE IN HIS CONCLUDING STATEMENT, WHICH WILL BE FULLY REPORTED IN TH RECORD OF THE MEETING:

QUOTE DURING THE COURSE OF DISCUSSIONS THE QUESTION OF EQUALITY OF PARTICIPATION IN THE ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD WAS RAISED, IT WAS FELT THAT IN VIEW OF THE IMPORTANCE OF THIS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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QUESTTION, THE PROPPER FORUM FOR DICUSSION WOULD BE THE TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD. UNQUOTE

5. AT THIS FIRST SESSION OF THE UNCTAD ECDC COMMITTEE, THE G-77 WAS UNPREPARED AND UNABLE TO ENGAGE IN SUBSTANTIVE DISCUSSION ON ECDC ACTIVITIES AND, INSTEAD, VIEWED THE MEETING AS A MEANS OF AUTHORIZING THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT TO PERFORM CERTAIN STUDIES WHICH IT WANTED CARRIED OUT. THE ONLY REAL DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE DRAFT RESOLUTION, IN WHICH THE G-77 INDICATED THAT IT WAS NOT RECEPTIVE TO ANY IDEAS PUT FORWARD BY GROUP B --NOT EVEN THOSE OF SPAIN AND TURKEY WHICH TRIED, AS LDC MEMBERS OF GROUP B, TO ADVANCE SOME THOUGHTS OF THEIR OWN. ALTHOUGH THE G-77 DID NOT PRESS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ALL STUDIES PROPOSED BY THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT, MEMBERS OF THE SECRETARIAT WORKED CLOSELY WITH AND APPEARED TO HAVE A MAJOR INFLUENCE ON THE G-77 DURING NEGOTIATIONS ON THE FINAL RESOLUTION IN THE CONTACT AND DRAFTING GROUPS. SECRETARIAT DESIRES TO "EMPIRE BUILD" IN THE ECDC AREA COULD THEREFORE HELP ACCOUNT FOR THE G-77'S UNWILLINGNESS TO COMPROMISE IN SETTING FORTH THE UNCTAD WORK PROGRAM.

6. THE G-77 WAS PLACED IN AN INITIALLY WEAK POSITION AT THIS MEETING WHEN THE NEW MEXICAN GOVERNMENT RECALLED AMBASSADOR ARMENDARIZ, THE PROMINENT G-77 LEADER IN GENEVA ON ECDC ACTIVITIES. ECONOMIC MINISTER AHMED OF BANGLADESH TOOK OVER AS G-77 COORDINATOR FOR THIS MEETING, WHO, AS A SOUTH ASIAN, DEMONSTRATED A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SYMPATHY FOR A SECRETARIAT WHICH IS BECOMING INCREASINGLY DOMINATED BY SOUTH ASIANS. HE, HOWEVER, PROVED TO BE A WEAK, INEFFECTUAL G-77 LEADER WHO ALLOWED THE DISCUSSIONS TO BOG DOWN ON PROCEDURAL POSTURING AND OVER SYNTAX, DEMONSTRATING LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF THE SUBSTANCE OR THE BREADTH OF ACTIVITIES GOING ON ELSEWHERE IN THE UN SYSTEM. THERE WERE TWO HIGHLY COMPETENT DELEGATES FROM INDIA SA'AD HASHMI, DEPUTY PERM REP OF THE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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INDIAN NEW YORK MISSION AND KARTI SANILYA, FIRST SECRETARY IN GENEVA) WHO PROVIDED A HELPFUL, MODERATING INFLUENCE AT CRITICAL POINTS IN THE NEGOTIATIONS, WORKING FREQUENTLY IN CLOSE COORDINATION WITH THE GROUP B SPOKESMAN. THE BLACK AFRICANS APPEARED TO PLAY A MINOR ROLE IN THIS MEETING, BEING LED BY EGYPT AND LIBYA AND APPEARING TO BE EVEN MORE DOGMATIC AND LESS WELL INFORMED THAN EVEN THE G-77 SPOKESMAN FROM BANGLADESH. THE LATIN AMERICANS, WHO DID NOT PLAY A MAJOR ROLE IN THIS MEETING, WERE LED ERRATICALLY BY AMBASSADOR WALKER OF JAMAICA WHO, BRIEFLY ENGAGED IN A VERBAL DUEL WITH GROUP

B SPOKESMAN (ALLEN-US) BUT THEN ABSENTED HIMSELF FROM THE MEETING. GROUP D SAID LITTLE DURING THE MEETING, BUT MADE A FEW INTERVENTIONS BASICALLY TO SUPPORT THE GROUP B POSITION, TO COMPLAIN ABOUT UNCTAD'S BUDGETARY GROWTH AND TO DIS-

ASSOCIATE THE SOCIALIST STATES FROM THE ECDC PROGRAM  
AND PROBLEMS. CHINA WAS NOT EVEN PRESENT.

7. GROUP B, UPON THE ADOPTION OF THE RESOLUTION, ENTERED  
AN INTERPRETIVE STATEMENT WHICH, WHILE ACCENTUATING  
THE POSITIVE ASPECTS OF COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING  
COUNTRIES, STRESSED THAT ITS ACCEPTANCE HAD TO BE VIEWED  
IN THE CONTEXT OF THE CONSTRAINTS OF THE GROUP'S INTER-  
PRETIVE STATEMENTS AS NAIROBI, AT THE 16TH BOARD AND AT  
THE COMMITTEE MEETING ITSELF CONCERNING THE NECESSITY  
FOR THE FULL PARTICIPATION OF ALL MEMBERS OF UNCTAD,  
FOR RESPECT FOR INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND FOR  
UNCTAD'S RELATIVE ROLE IN THE PROCESS WHICH ENGAGES THE

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CEA-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /128 W  
-----092113Z 101193 /73

R 091708Z MAY 77  
FM USMISSION GENEVA  
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INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA  
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ATTENTION F THE WHOLE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM. THE STATE-  
MENT NOTED THAT IT WAS THE TOPICS SELECTED TO BE STUDIED BY UNCTAD  
THAT WERE BASED ON THE MEXICO CONFERENCE, NOT NECESSARILY  
THE INDIVIDUAL RECOMMENDATIONS CONTAINED IN THE MEXICO  
REPORT AND THAT GROUP B DID NOT BELIEVE MEXICO CONSTITUTED  
THE SOLE SOURCE OF INSPIRATION FOR FUTURE ACTIVITIES,  
OTHERS HAVING THE RIGHT TO MAKE THEIR OWN SUGGESTIONS.  
WITH REGARD TO PARA 2 (VII), THE GROUP INDICATED THAT THE

LANGUAGE WAS SOMEWHAT INDISTINCT, BUT THAT GROUP B'S INTERPRETATION WAS THAT UNIDO CONTINUED TO HAVE PRIME RESPONSIBILITY IN THIS FIELD. GROUP B ALSO NOTED THAT WHILE PARA 5 DID NOT SPECIFICALLY MENTION GATT, IT ACCEPTED (AS DID ALL OTHER GROUPS) THE SECRETARIAT'S ASSURANCES THAT THE PHRASEOLOGY USED ALSO INCLUDED THE GATT. CONCERNING THE BUDGETARY-PROGRAM REVIEWS CONTAINED IN PARA 7, 8, AND 9, THE GROUP EXPRESSED ITS ANTICIPATION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THAT A THOROUGH REVIEW WOULD TAKE PLACE AT THE 17TH TDB ON BOTH THE NEW ELEMENTS OF THE PROGRAM AND THE IMPACT OF THE PROGRAM ON THE ONGOING WORK OF UNCTAD. THE STATEMENT CONCLUDED BY STRESSING GROUP B'S PARTICULAR INTEREST IN SEEING AN EFFECTIVE PROGRAM, NOTING IN THIS CONNECTION THAT GROUP B ALSO COUNTS DEVELOPING COUNTRIES WITHIN ITS RANKS.

8. GROUP D ENTERED A STATEMENT DECRYING THE USE OF THE TERM "INTERDEPENDENCE" IN THE TEXT, COMPLAINING ABOUT UNJUSTIFIED BUDGETARY GROWTHS, AND NOTING THAT THE SAME CRITERIA COULD NOT BE APPLIED TO SOCIALIST STATES AS TO CAPITALIST STATES IN ANY ECDC PROGRAM, LEAVING THE CLEAR IMPLICATION THAT GROUP D'S PARTICIPATION WOULD BE MINIMAL AND NON-CONSTRUCTIVE.

9. GROUP OF 77 IN THEIR STATEMENT NOTED THAT, IN REGARD TO THE QUESTION OF UNIDO'S ROLE (PARA 2 VII), IT WAS CLEAR FROM THE RESOLUTION THAT THE UNCTAD SECRETARIAT WOULD CONSULT AND COORDINATE "WHEREVER APPROPRIATE", THUS MAKING ONE OF GROUP B'S POINTS FOR IT ABOUT COORDINATION NOT BEING DISCRETIONARY AT THE CHOICE OF THE UNCTAD SYG. HE ALSO NOTED G-77 UNHAPPINESS ABOUT THE QUESTION OF THE STRENGTHENING AND LINKING UP OF CLEARING AND PAYMENTS ARRANGEMENTS BEING SEPARATED FROM THE MAIN OPERATIVE PARAGRAPH (PARA 2), BUT INDICATED THAT THIS SECTION AS WELL WAS VIEWED BY THE G-77 AS HAVING "SPECIAL PRIORITY" WITHIN UNCTAD'S FIELD OF ENDEAVOR.

10. THE MEETING CONCLUDED WITHOUT TAKING ANY DECISION ON THE AGENDA FOR THE NEXT MEETING, LEAVING THE QUESTION TO SYG CONSULTATIONS WITH THE COMMITTEE BUREAU, BUT TENTATIVELY SETTING THE DATE FOR THE NEXT SESSION FOR OCTOBER 9-20, 1978, SUBJECT TO CONFIRMATION BY THE 17TH TDB. THE COMMITTEE ALSO ACCEPTED WITHOUT COMMENT THE SECRETARIAT'S SUGGESTION FOR ROTATION OF THE CHAIRMANSHIP AND OTHER LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OFFICERS OF THE BUREAU WHICH FOLLOWS THE UNCTAD PATTERN  
THUS ENDING THE G-77 BID TO HAVE THE CHAIRMANSHIP PER-  
MANENTLY RESERVED FOR A MEMBER OF THE G-77.

11. COMMENTS: WHILE THE SUBJECT MATTER OF THE ECDC  
COMMITTEE IS OSTENSIBLY OF MAJOR IMPORTANCE TO THE G-77,  
THE G-77'S PERFORMANCE DURING THE COURSE OF THE DISCUSSIONS  
DEMONSTRATED POOR PREPARATION, ITS STATEMENTS WERE ILL-  
INFORMED, AND ITS APPROACH LACKED BOTH IN LEADERSHIP AND  
VIGOR. THE SECRETARIAT'S PERFORMANCE WAS DELIBERATELY  
MISLEADING, WITH AN OBVIOUS DESIRE TO OBSCURE INFORMATION  
WHICH WOULD UNDERCUT ITS EFFORTS TO AGGRANDIZE ITS OWN  
ROLE TO THE DETRIMENT OF OTHER ELEMENTS OF THE UN SYSTEM,  
I.E., INFORMATION ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ACC  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON ECDC, ON THE RESULTS OF THE ESCAP MEETING,  
ON THE WORK ACTIVITIES OF THE IMPF, ETC., WAS NEITHER  
VOLUNTEERED NOR MENTIONED UNTIL BROUGHT OUT BY  
THE GROUP B SPOKESMAN IN THE DEBATES IN THE CONTACT  
GROUP. THE G-77, FOR THEIR PART, WERE UNAWARE OF SUCH  
DEVELOPMENTS AND RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT GROUP B'S  
WORD FOR IT. IT WAS A PRIME EXAMPLE FOR THE SECRETARIAT  
ATTEMPTING TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF G-77'S CUPIDITY FOR ITS  
BUREAUCRATIC BENEFIT, AN EFFORT THAT MIGHT HAVE SUCCEEDED  
IF GROUP B HAD NOT BEEN WELL-PREPARED AND WILLING TO TAKE  
THE INITIATIVE. UP TO THE TIME THAT GROUP B'S  
DRAFT WAS CIRCULATED, THE G-77 HAD NOT PUT ONE WORD ON  
PAPER AND PROBABLY WOULD EVENTUALLY HAVE PRESSED FOR A  
VAGUE GENERALIZED RESOLUTION CALLING FOR UNCTAD TO IMPLEMENT  
THE MEXICO CITY PROGRAM. IT IS NOTABLE THAT THE SECRE-  
TARIAT'S OWN IDEAS ON A WORK PROGRAM CONTAINED IN DOCUMENT  
TD/B/C.7/3 WERE NOT EVEN MENTIONED ONCE IN THE FINAL  
RESOLUTION.SORENSEN

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## Message Attributes

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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
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**Disposition Remarks:**  
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**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
**Expiration:**  
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**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 7  
**Previous Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Previous Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Reference:** 77 GENEVA 3415  
**Retention:** 0  
**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Content Flags:**  
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**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 2602260  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** UNCTAD: CONCLUSION OF FIRST SESSION OF COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC COOPERATION AMONG DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (ECDC)  
**TAGS:** EGEN, ECON, UNCTAD  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009